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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Rev. Michael N. Higgs, LINC Ministries, Canby, OR, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray together:

Almighty God, Creator of the universe, Sovereign and Supreme Ruler over our Nation, we thank You today for the gifts of life and liberty, and for the many blessings we and our country have received from Your hand. Along with the 22,000 students here this week for Youth For Christ's D.C. '97 Youth Evangelism Super Conference, I thank You for the privilege of interceding on behalf of those You have appointed to lead our Nation. We acknowledge Your sovereignty in the affairs of all nations, as well as Your divine appointment of all in positions of authority. We thank You for all the Senators, for the unique gifts, talents, and abilities You have given them. May they utilize them today and each day in a way that pleases You and blesses our Nation. As they confront the problems, challenges and opportunities that our country faces, give them the wisdom to make decisions with justice, mercy, and compassion. Grant them insight and inspiration as they face difficulties and obstacles; give them not only success in their endeavors, but also joy in the journey as they serve You and our country. And as they represent a generation of youth who are searching for leadership marked by moral and ethical integrity, give them the faith and courage to do what is right in Your eyes, to honor You in their speech and conduct, and to act in a manner that will attract Your blessing to our Nation and ensure a righteous legacy for our young people. We pray this in faith, in the name of Jesus and for His glory. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWNBACK. For the information of all Members, today the Senate will resume consideration of S. 955, the foreign operations appropriations bill. Under the previous order, following the debate time on the remaining two amendments to S. 955, the Senate will begin voting on those amendments as well as final passage. Therefore, Senators can expect three consecutive rollcall votes beginning at approximately 10 a.m. this morning.

It is the intention of the majority leader for the Senate to begin consideration of the Treasury, postal appropriations bill following the disposition of the foreign operations appropriations bill. Members can anticipate additional rollcall votes today on the Treasury, postal appropriations bill.

The majority leader has also stated that the Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Joel Klein to be an Assistant Attorney General. Senators can expect a rollcall vote on that nomination following the conclusion of the remaining 3 hours for debate.

I thank all Senators for their attention, and I yield the floor.

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING, AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1998

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending bill.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 955) making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes.

The Senate resumed consideration of the bill.

Pending:

Bingaman amendment No. 896, to provide for Cuban-American family humanitarian support and compassionate travel.

Hutchinson amendment No. 890, to express the sense of the Senate that most-favored-nation trade status for China should be revoked.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able Senator from New Mexico is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 896

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I appreciate very much the chance to speak again about my amendment. Let me take just a few minutes to describe what this amendment does and then reserve a couple of the 5 minutes that is allotted for my side for any rebuttal I need to make.

This amendment is very modest. It tries to do three things. It is aimed at assisting the Cuban-American families that reside in our country, some of whom are citizens—some individuals are citizens, some are residents. It tries to assist in three respects.

First of all, it says with regard to family support payments, that residents of the United States shall not be prohibited from sending to their parents, their siblings, their spouses, or their children who currently reside in Cuba, small amounts of money, not to exceed \$200 per month, to be used for the purchase of basic necessities, including food, clothing, household supplies, rent, medicines, and medical care.

Mr. President, I think this is self-explanatory. We had a policy until the shootdown of the plane some 2 years ago, nearly, at this point—we had a policy of permitting, I believe, \$100 per month to be remitted by Cuban-Americans living in this country to their families in Cuba for these types of purposes. That is no longer permitted at any level. This amendment would say up to \$200 per month could be sent by

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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